

Will the broadcast flag interfere with consumers ability to make copies of DTV content for their personal use, either on personal video recorders or removable media?

Yes, and to do so would be at odds with the Supreme Court's ruling in the Betamax case.

Would the digital flag interfere with consumers ability to send DTV content across networks, such as home digital networks connecting digital set top boxes, digital recorders, digital servers and digital display devices?

Most likely, unless many device which are not primarily designed for home entertainment but which are adaptable for such use (eg., a computer) are burdened with features which some consumers may not wish to pay for.

Would the broadcast flag requirement limit consumers ability to use their existing electronic equipment (equipment not built to look for the flag) or make it difficult to use older components with new equipment that is compliant with the broadcast flag standard?

Possibly. For example, I don't know if the computer I just bought for editing personal videos will support a future broadcast flag. Certainly, the existing software does not.

Would a broadcast flag requirement limit the development of future equipment providing consumers with new options?

Yes, and as a licensed amateur radio operator (W3JJH), I am concerned that the computer hardware which may be available in the future will restrict development of new digital modes for ham radio. Clearly, licensed users of radio services other than broadcasting should be allowed to bypass hardware and software limitations imposed by any broadcast flag which impact their licensed operations.

What will be the cost impact, if any, that a broadcast flag requirement would have on consumer electronics equipment?

Who knows? But as the former VP of Engineering of a consumer audio company, I would guess that the impact would be noticed by most consumers.

Other Comments:

The Commission should insure that broadcasters operate in the public's interest, convenience, and necessity--not that of the entertainment industry. As a trademark, servicemark, and copyright holder, I understand Hollywood's desire to protect its intellectual property. However, using the FCC to force a defacto encryption scheme on the public is not in the public interest, nor will the effects of the proposed broadcast flag be convenient for the public, nor is it necessary. There are other means available to protect intellectual property. Let the entertainment industry use them.